

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-03 SS-07 /017 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:DAKORN:JFC

APPROVED BY NEA - MR. SAUNDERS

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P 122125Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 110214

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:OVIP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF SENATOR ABOUREZK

REF: BEIRUT 5637

1. WE HAVE SPOKEN TO SENATOR ABOUREZK AND HIS STAFF ABOUT VISIT. EXACT TRAVEL SCHEDULE WILL BE SENT YOU BY SEPTTEL IN NEXT FEW DAYS BUT SENATOR IS NOW PLANNING TO ARRIVE IN LEBANON ABOUT JUNE 5 AND SPEND TWO DAYS IN LEBANON AND ONE VISITING DAMASCUS FROM LEBANON. SENATOR'S ENTOURAGE WILL NUMBER 18, MAINLY CONSTITUENTS FROM SOUTH DAKOTA. HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MAKSOUD, AND MAKSOUD HAS BEEN IN WASHINGTON RECENTLY TO DISCUSS TRIP WITH THE SENATOR.

2. SENATOR DOES WANT TO MAKE A CALL ON PRESIDENT FRANGIE. HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH ON THIS WITH LEBANESE EMBASSY, BUT WE ARE NOT SURE PRECISELY WHERE MATTER STANDS. SUGGEST YOU INQUIRE OF PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND IF CALL HAS NOT YET BEEN SET UP MAKE A REQUEST ON SENATOR'S BEHALF. SENATOR APPRECIATES BUT DECLINES IMAM SADR'S OFFER TO HOST FUNCTION AND ARRANGE VISIT TO KFAYR.

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3. SENATOR APPRECIATES YOUR OFFER OF DINNER BUT WANTS TO KEEP SOCIAL EVENTS TO A MINIMUM AND DOES NOT WANT TO BURDEN YOU WITH THE LARGE GROUP ACCOMPANYING HIM, PARTICULARLY SINCE THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL TRIP. HE DOES, HOWEVER, WANT TO MEET WITH YOU.

4. FYI: SENATOR ASKED THAT WE INSTRUCT EMBASSY TO ASK TUENI TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT WITH ARAFAT. WE INDICATED WE DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD BE PROPER ROLE FOR EMBASSY. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT SENATOR WILL PURSUE ARRANGEMENT OF MEETING WITH ARAFAT DIRECTLY WITH TUENI OR THROUGH MAKSOUD. END FYI. INGERSOLL

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